

27 MAR 1965 FIRST H. 5:00 P.M.

GO, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 29, 1965

Quake Breaks Dam, Drowning 350 In Chile

20 Others Killed, 155 Injured
As Shocks Damage 10 Cities

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SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—A giant earthquake rumbling across central Chile yesterday broke a 230-foot-high dam, drowning 350 to 400 persons under seas of water and mud, the government announced. At least 20 others were killed and 155 injured elsewhere.

The victims of the dam break lived in a valley under "El Cobre" (copper) dam, near La Calera, 70 miles north of Santiago, Minister of Mines Eduard Simian said.

Between 60 and 70 farmhouses and cottages were swept away under millions of tons of water and debris that cascaded onto the fertile valley. About 600 persons lived under the shadow of the dam, leaving the fate of some of the inhabitants still unknown.

The earthquake was felt up and down this elongated mountain land, but the full force hit the central provinces of Aconcagua, Valparaiso, Coquimbo and Santiago, where a third of Chile's 7.8 million live.

DESTRUCTION HEAVY

Heavy destruction was reported in the towns of Llay-Llay, San Felipe, Los Andes, La Ligua, Cabildo and Illapel, ranging in population from 10,000 to 25,000. All are immediately north of Santiago, the capital.

Rocks and debris from Chile's Andean peaks came tumbling down in avalanches, blocking highways and railroad beds.

Deaths and great destruction were reported in at least 10 cities. The first tremor came at 12:35 p.m. while many Sunday churchgoers were at Mass. Thousands ran in panic into

the streets of Santiago, as the ground swayed and buildings rocked.

Automobiles were abandoned in mid-street in Santiago and the three-story Chile-British Cultural Center was cracked from sidewalk to roof. Cornices toppled from buildings and crashed to the sidewalks. At least 30 persons were reported injured in the city.

Cave-ins near Quillota trapped about 100 miners but most scrambled to safety within a few hours.

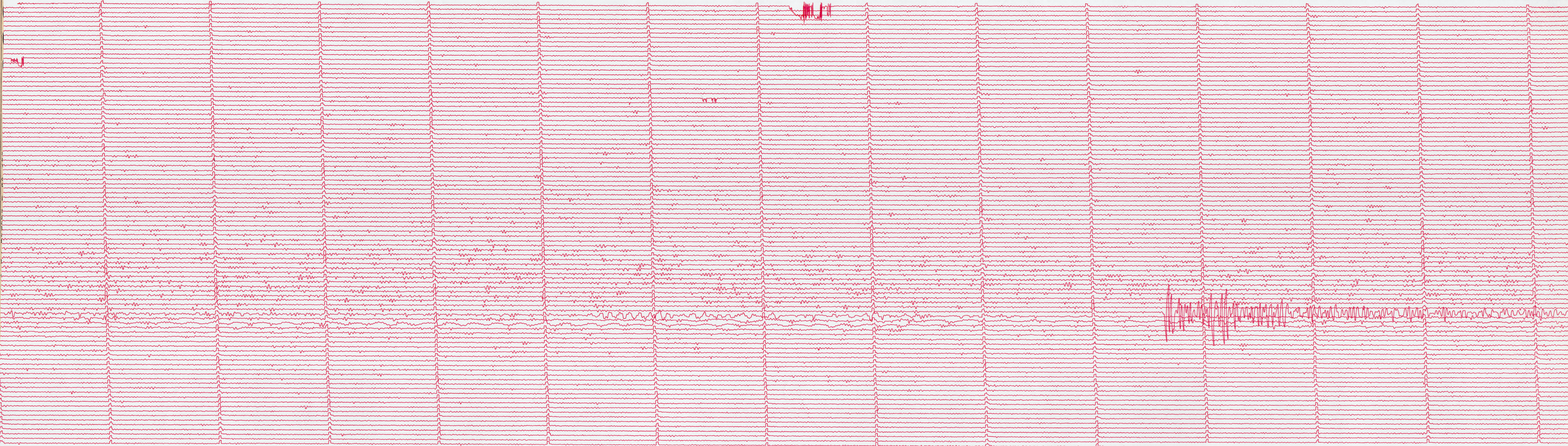
TOWN LEVELED
About a third of the houses were reported destroyed or heavily damaged at Valparaiso, Chile's second largest city. Two persons were reported killed there.

At the coastal resort of Vina del Mar, near Valparaiso, two persons were reported dead. Eighty per cent of buildings in San Felipe were destroyed.

The quake jolted seismological stations around the world. Estimates of its intensity on the Richter scale ranged between 6.5 and 7.5 points.

The highest reading recorded on the scale has been about 8.6.

The exceptionally severe earthquake in Alaska in March, 1964, measured 8.2.



4:00:00 P.M.